



**ACTION
COMICS**



ACTION-PLUS
WITH:
**GREEN ARROW
AND BLACK CANARY!**

25¢
NO. 452
OCT.
30410



ACTION COMICS

PLEASE,
**SUPERMAN--
HIT ME!**
YOU'VE GOT TO!

EVEN
IF IT
**KILLS
ME!**

Featuring...
**"THE LOSER...
and NEW
CHAMPION!"**



3-2086

**A TALE OF
THUNDERING
ACTION
IN THE
POWERFUL
DRAMATIC
TRADITION
OF...**

SUPERMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

COME ON, *SUPERMAN*...
I CAN'T BE AS TOUGH AS
YOU ARE, EVEN WITH MY
SUPER-STRENGTH!

YOU SHOULD BE ABLE
TO FLATTEN ME *EASY!*

AND WHEN YOU
DO... I WIN!



WHAT VILLAIN WOULD DARE TO OPERATE IN *METROPOLIS*, WHERE SOONER OR LATER THE
MATCHLESS *MAN OF STEEL* IS SURE TO DEFEAT HIM?
WELL, THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THIS BADDIE IS COUNTING ON! EACH *ENDING* IS A NEW
BEGINNING FOR THE MAN WHO HOPES TO BECOME...

"The LOSER--AND NEW CHAMPION!"

STORY: JIM SHOOTER ART: CURT SWAN & TEX BLAISDELL EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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ONE MORNING, JUST OUTSIDE THE
PENTHOUSE OFFICE SUITE OF GALAXY
BROADCASTING PRESIDENT MORGAN
EDGE...

MORGAN EDGE

HI-YA,
CLARKIE!
GREAT
MORNING,
ISN'T IT?

HAVE A
CIGAR,
OL' BUDDY!

NO, THANKS,
STEVE! I DON'T
SMOKE!

STEVE LOMBARD ACTING
FRIENDLY... AND NOT PLAYING
PRANKS ON ME?

MY X-RAY VISION
SHOWS THAT'S NOT
A TRICK CIGAR
HE OFFERED ME!

GO
RIGHT IN,
CLARK!

WHAT'S UP, STEVE? FIRST
MR. EDGE WANTS TO SEE
YOU, AND NOW CLARK!

AND WHY ARE YOU
SUDDENLY SUCH A RAY
OF SUNSHINE?

VERY SIMPLE,
LAURA BABY!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT,
BEHIND THOSE DOORS,
GALAXY'S STAR NEBBISH
IS GETTING HIS TWO-
WEEKS' NOTICE!

EDGE HAS DECIDED TO
SWITCH TO A ONE-
MAN NEWS SHOW
STARRING YOURS
TRULY!

B-BUT
WHY...?

TO TRIM THE BUDGET, SWEETIE!
A COUPLE OF OUR SPONSORS
HAVE PULLED OUT!

THESE ARE HARD TIMES!
GOTTA TAKE THE BULLET
BETWEEN THE TEETH, YOU
KNOW!

BESIDES, BOSSMAN
EDGE THINKS WE NEED
A MORE FLAMBOYANT
IMAGE... LIKE MINE!

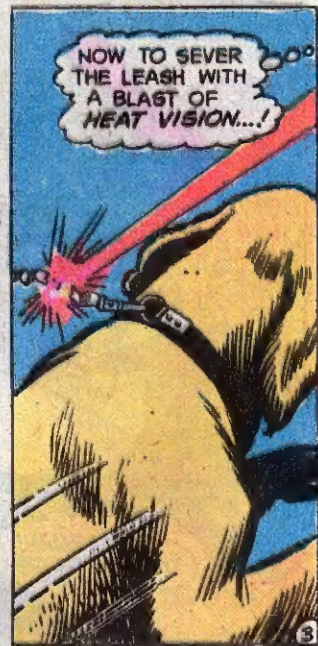
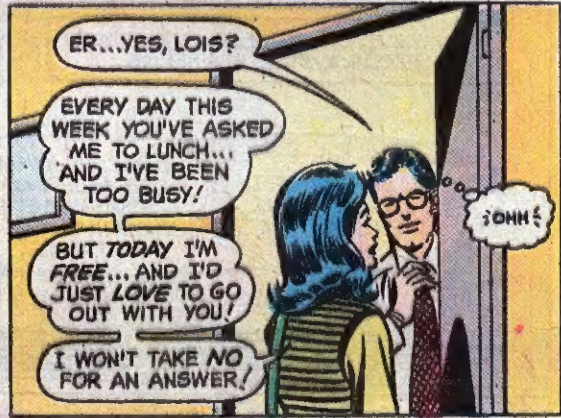
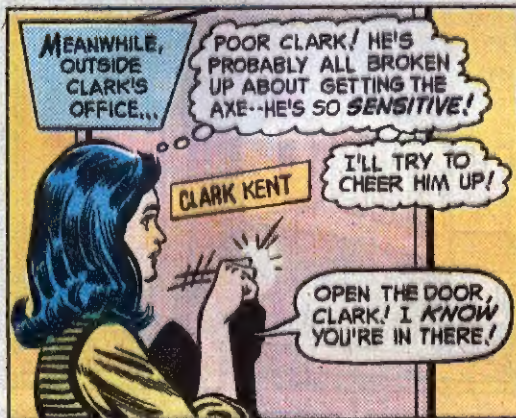
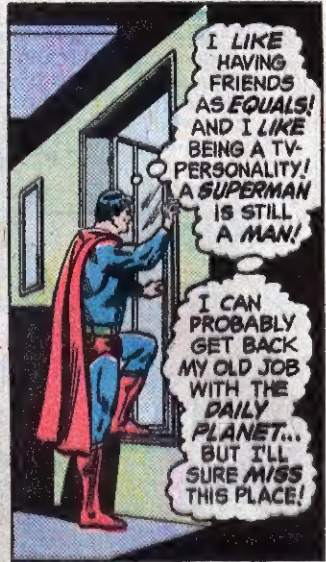
...SORRY,
CLARK!

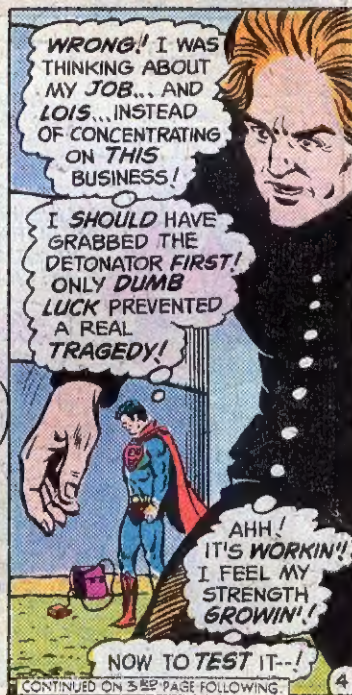
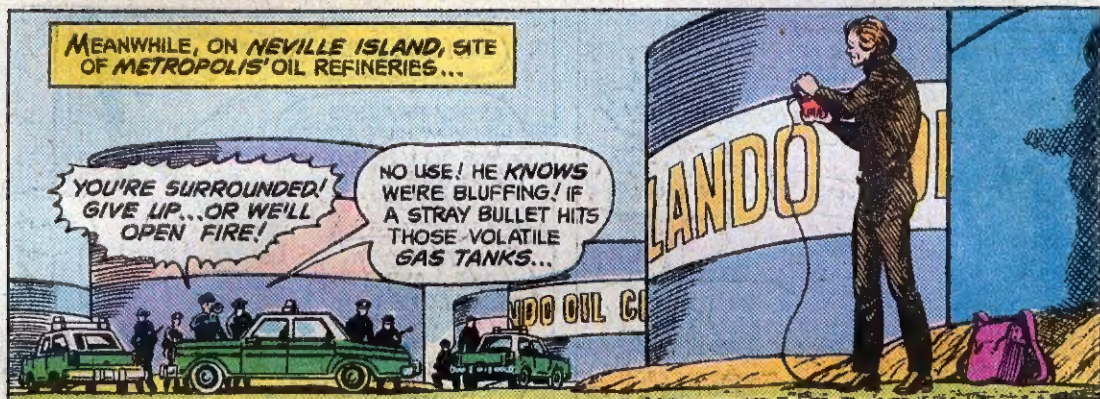
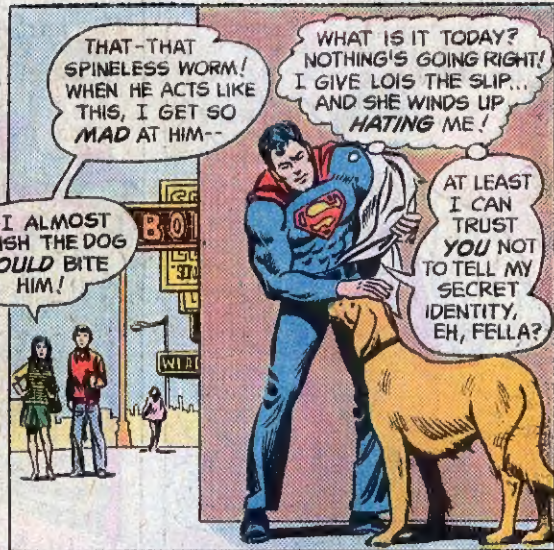
AND NO SOONER DOES A DESPONDENT CLARK
RETURN TO HIS OFFICE WHEN ON THE
POLICE RADIO...

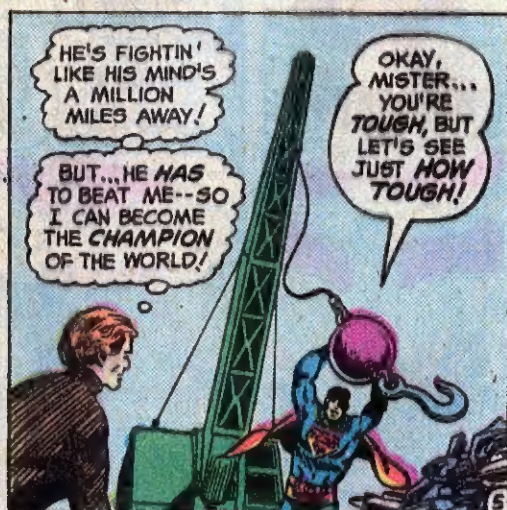
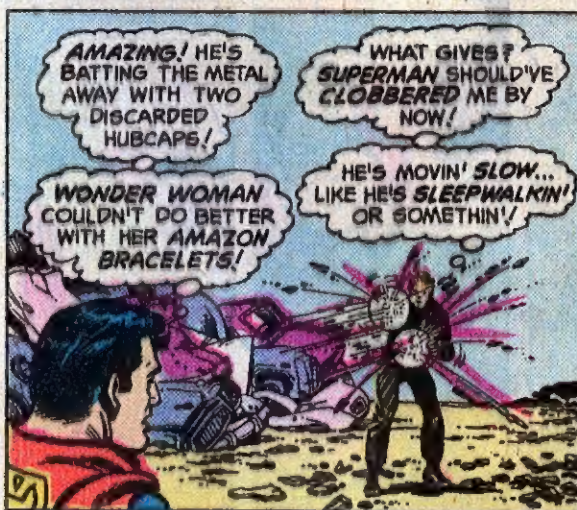
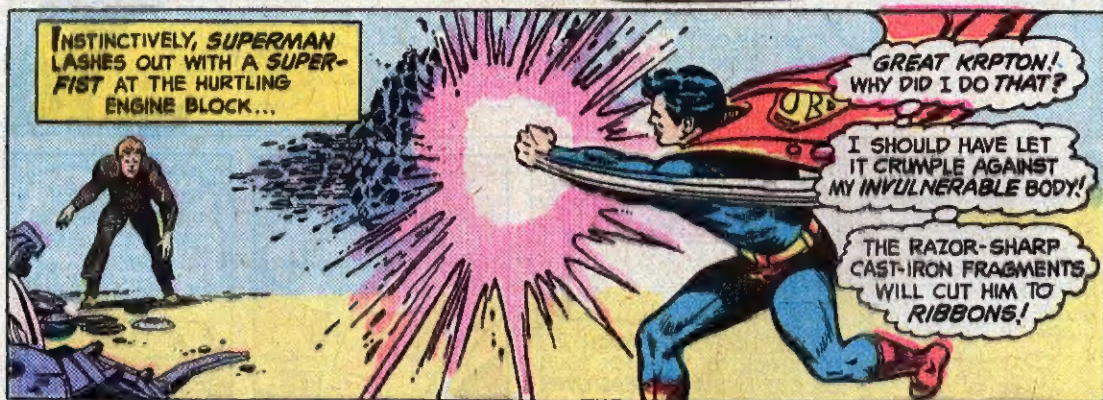
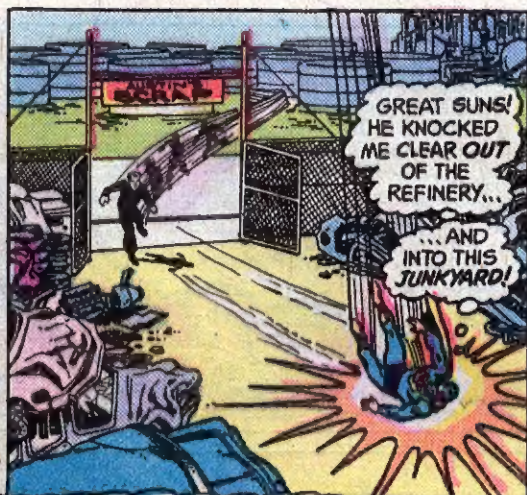
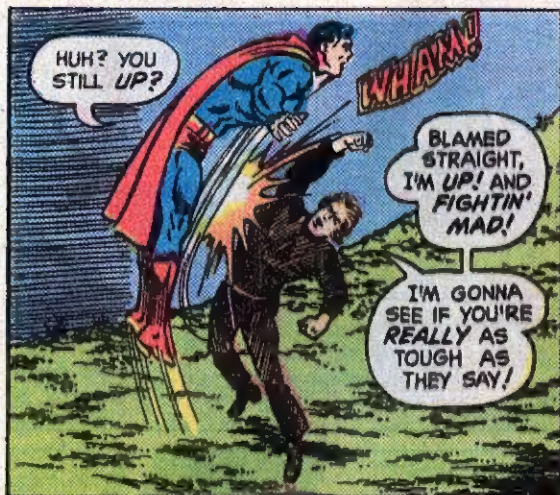
...MAN WITH EXPLOSIVES
NEAR A GASOLINE STORAGE
TANK ON NEVILLE ISLAND!
CAN'T RISK SHOOTING
AT HIM!

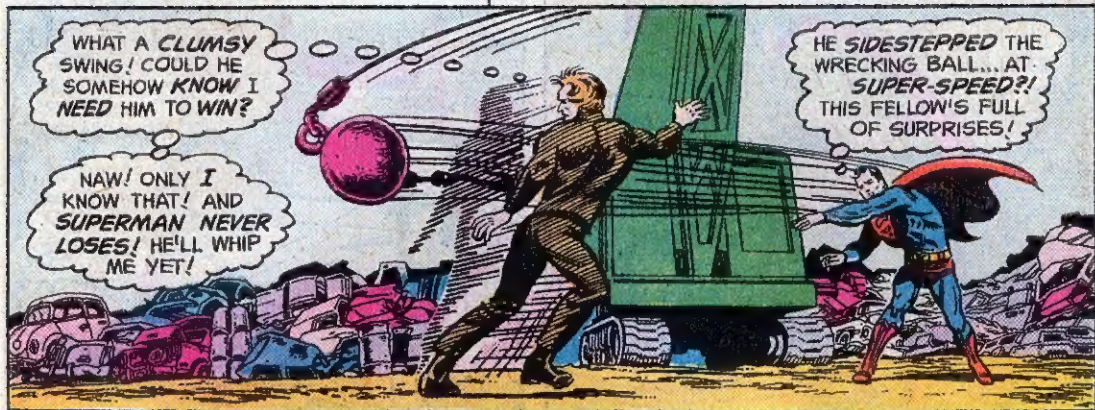
10-4,
UNIT-5!

HMPH!... AT LEAST
I'LL NEVER BE
OUT OF A
JOB AS
SUPERMAN!





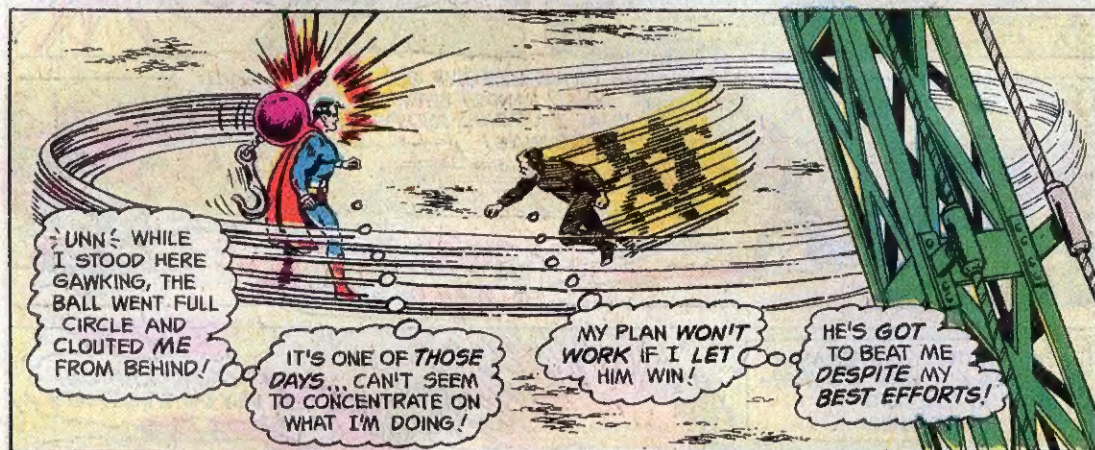




WHAT A CLUMSY SWING! COULD HE SOMEHOW KNOW I NEED HIM TO WIN?

NAW! ONLY I KNOW THAT! AND SUPERMAN NEVER LOSES! HE'LL WHIP ME YET!

HE SIDESTEPPED THE WRECKING BALL... AT SUPER-SPEED?! THIS FELLOW'S FULL OF SURPRISES!

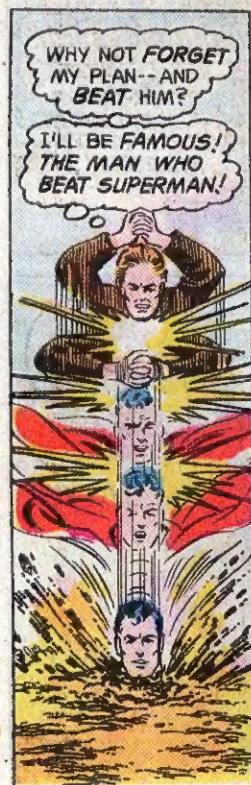


WHILE I STOOD HERE GAWKING, THE BALL WENT FULL CIRCLE AND CLOUTED ME FROM BEHIND!

IT'S ONE OF THOSE DAYS... CAN'T SEEM TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I'M DOING!

MY PLAN WON'T WORK IF I LET HIM WIN!

HE'S GOT TO BEAT ME DESPITE MY BEST EFFORTS!



WHY NOT FORGET MY PLAN--AND BEAT HIM?

I'LL BE FAMOUS! THE MAN WHO BEAT SUPERMAN!



MY HEAD'S STICKING OUT LIKE A FOOTBALL ON A TEE...

...AND HE'S WINDING UP FOR A SUPER-PLACE KICK!

WHEN I KICK YOUR HEAD OVER THE JUNKYARD GATE, SUPIE, I GET THREE POINTS!



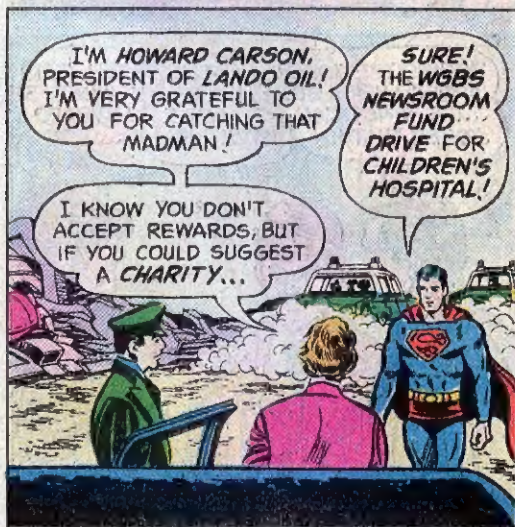
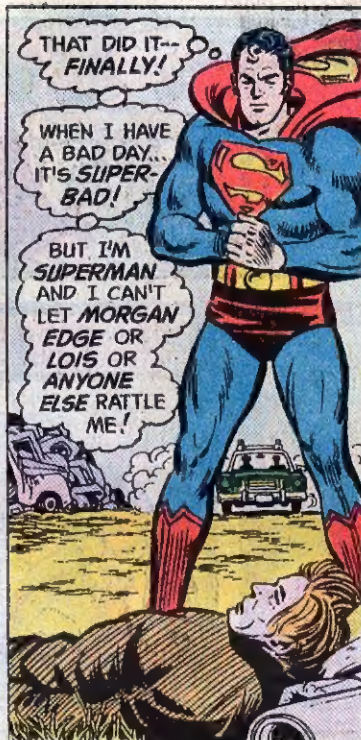
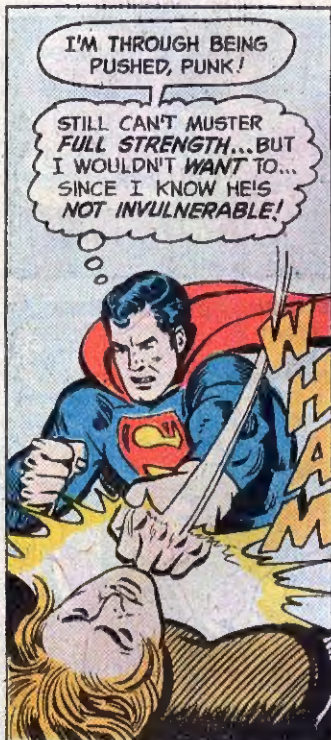
LOOKS LIKE THE REFEREE WILL HAVE TO CALL A HOLDING PENALTY!

YEEOW!



HE'S GOT ME! HIS STRENGTH IS TERRIFIC! I CAN'T BREAK LOOSE!

AT LEAST I KNOW HE WON'T KILL ME! SUPERMAN NEVER KILLS!





LATER, AS THE 6 O'CLOCK NEWS IS AIRED...

...AFTER SUPERMAN'S EXTRAORDINARY STRUGGLE THIS AFTERNOON, I ASKED HIM...

CUT TO TAPE 4-- THE SUPERMAN INTERVIEW!

I WONDER HOW KENT MANAGES TO GET THESE EXCLUSIVES WITH SUPES?



6:23 PM...

ALTHOUGH THE MAN OF STEEL'S MYSTERIOUS FOE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS RICK LAWRENCE, HIS SHORT-LIVED SUPER-POWERS REMAIN UNEXPLAINED -- FOR NOW!

NOW, HERE'S OSCAR ASHERMAN WITH THE WEATHER REPORT!



AND WHEN THE TELECAST IS ENDED...

GREAT, CLARK! I'LL BET HALF OF METROPOLIS IS ON THE EDGE OF ITS SEAT!

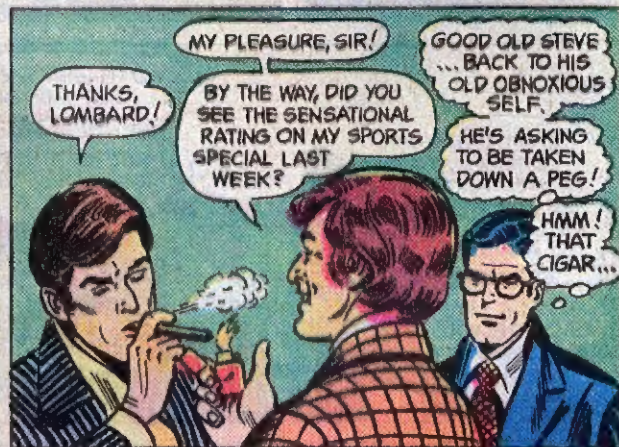
CLARK, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO COOL AND CONFIDENT!

YOU REALLY BUCKLED DOWN AND GOT IT TOGETHER!



HMM! OUT OF CIGARETTES...!

HAVE A CIGAR, MR. EDGE!



MY PLEASURE, SIR!

THANKS, LOMBARD!

BY THE WAY, DID YOU SEE THE SENSATIONAL RATING ON MY SPORTS SPECIAL LAST WEEK?

GOOD OLD STEVE ... BACK TO HIS OLD OBNOXIOUS SELF.

HE'S ASKING TO BE TAKEN DOWN A PEG!

HMM! THAT CIGAR...



WHY, STEVE--THAT LOOKS LIKE THE SAME CIGAR YOU OFFERED ME THIS MORNING!

SURE IT'S NOT LOADED?

LOADED? IS THIS AN EXPLODING CIGAR, LOMBARD?

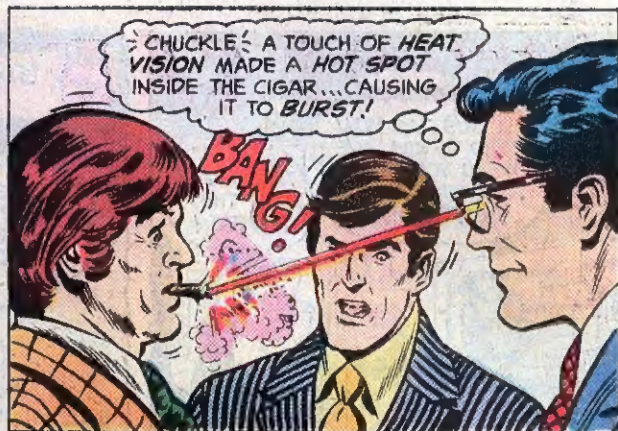
OF COURSE NOT! CLARKIE'S JOKING!

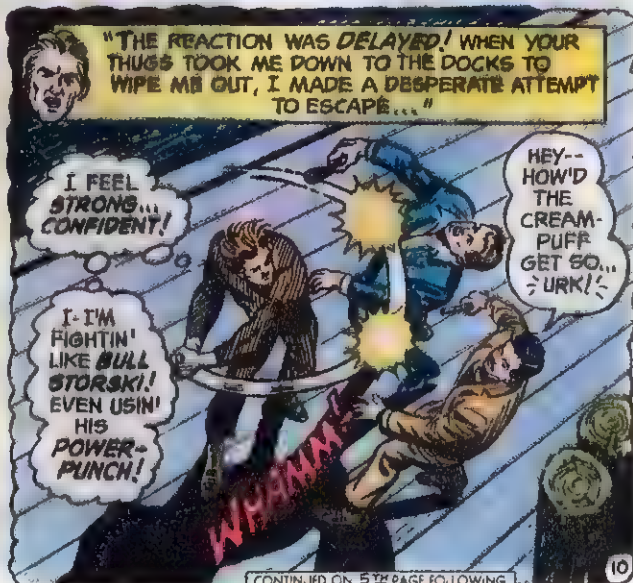
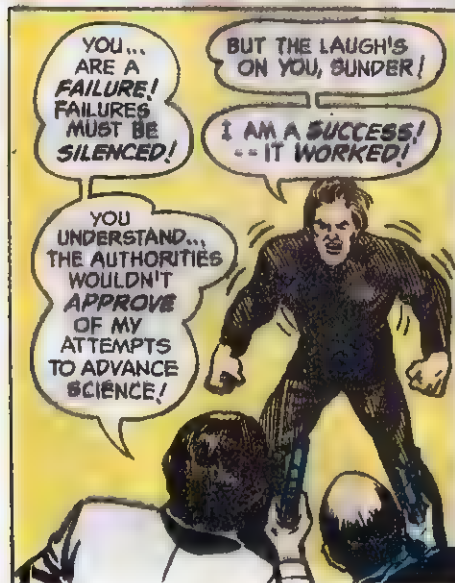
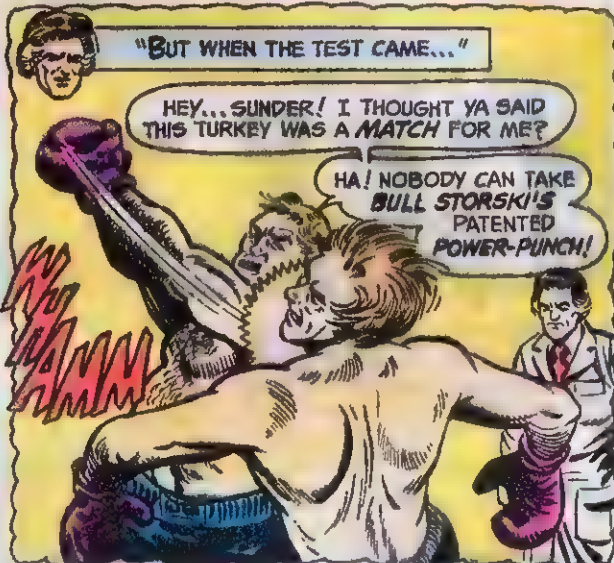
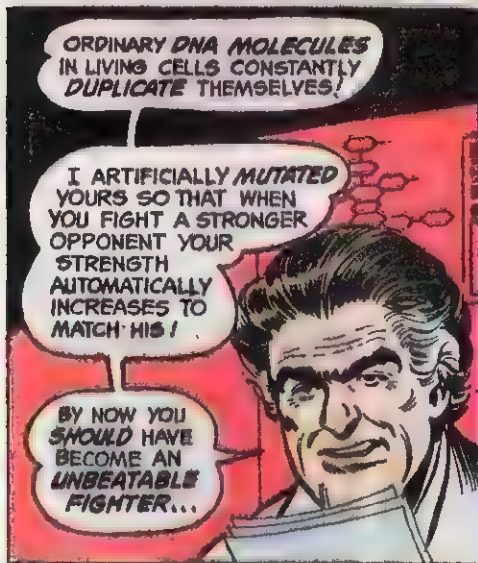
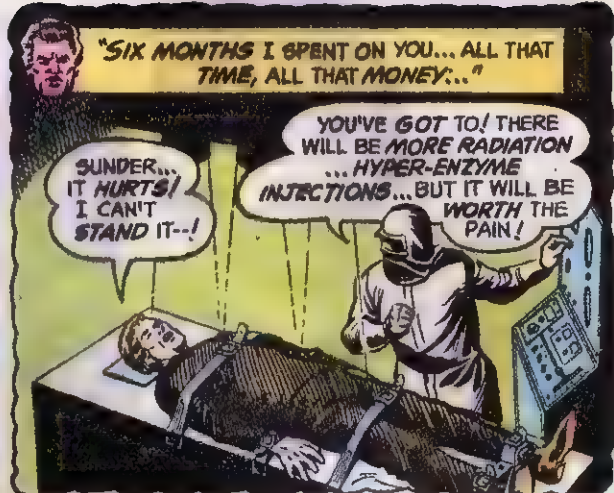


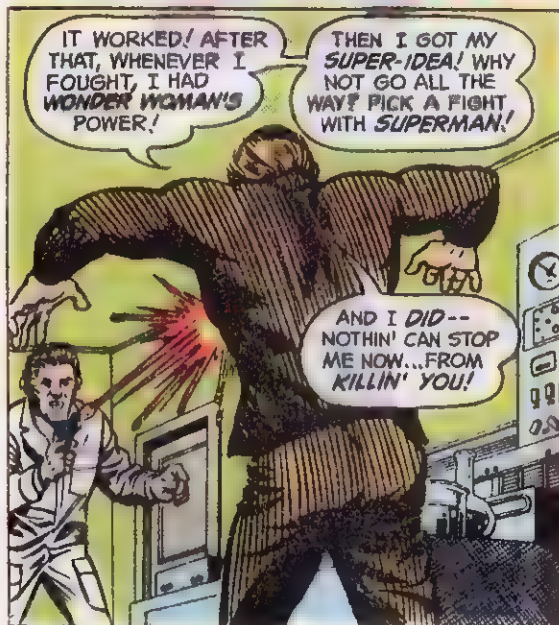
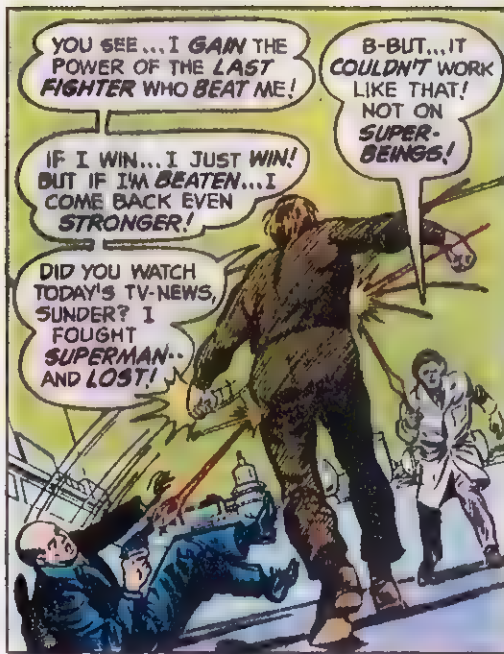
YOU'RE THE JOKER AROUND HERE, STEVE ... THE PRACTICAL JOKER, THAT IS!

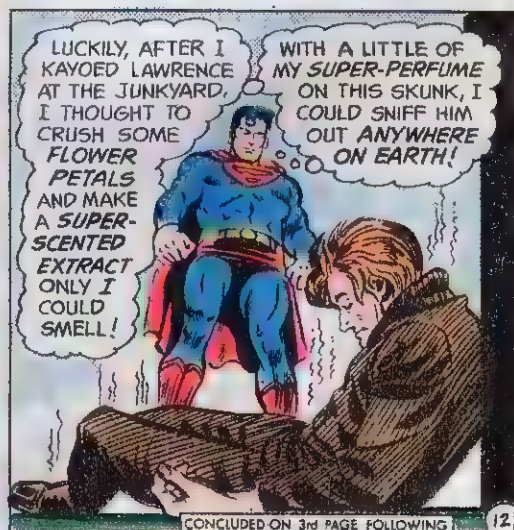
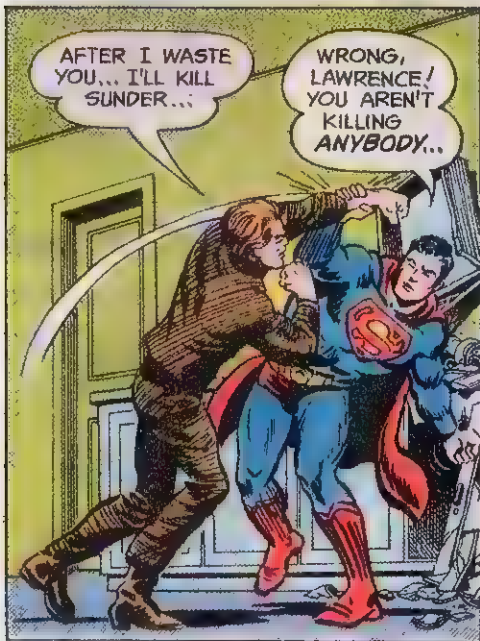
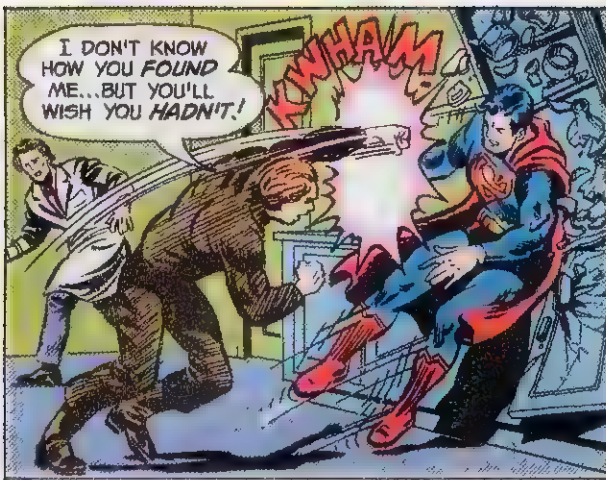
WELL, SURE, BUT I WOULDN'T...

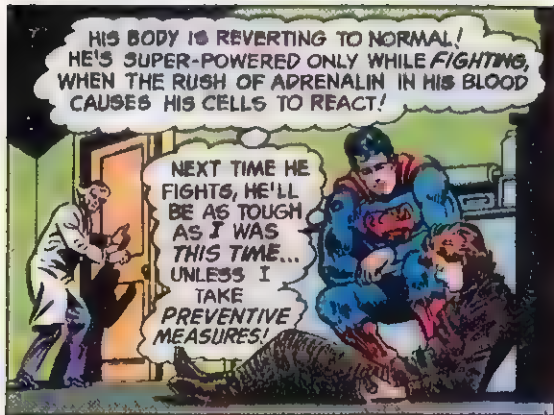
TELL YOU WHAT, LOMBARD ... YOU SMOKE IT!





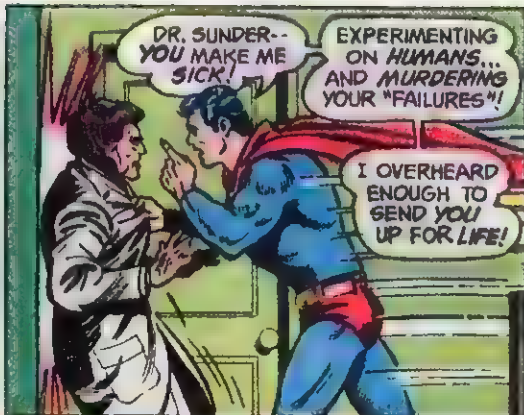






HIS BODY IS REVERTING TO NORMAL! HE'S SUPER-POWERED ONLY WHILE FIGHTING, WHEN THE RUSH OF ADRENALIN IN HIS BLOOD CAUSES HIS CELLS TO REACT!

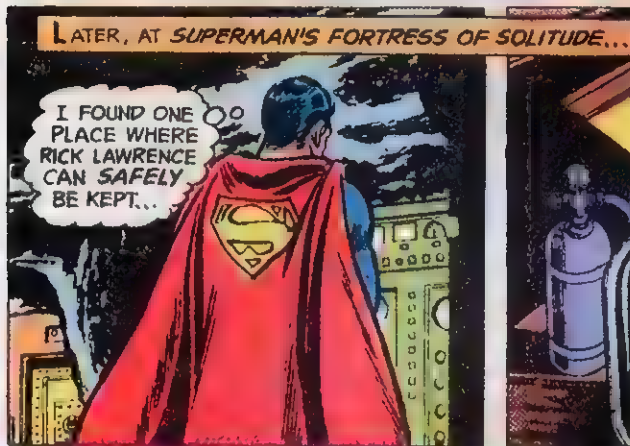
NEXT TIME HE FIGHTS, HE'LL BE AS TOUGH AS I WAS THIS TIME... UNLESS I TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES!



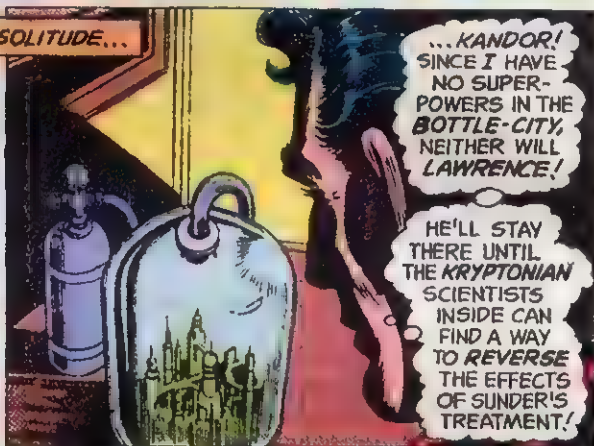
DR. SUNDER-- YOU MAKE ME SICK!

EXPERIMENTING ON HUMANS... AND MURDERING YOUR "FAILURES"!

I OVERHEARD ENOUGH TO SEND YOU UP FOR LIFE!

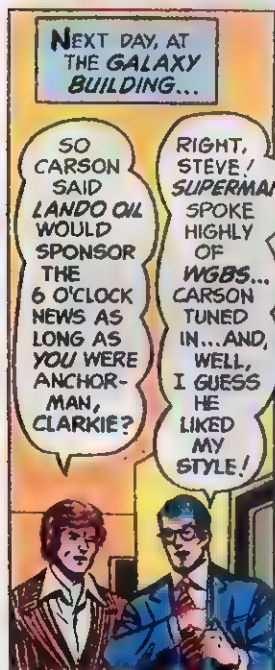


I FOUND ONE PLACE WHERE RICK LAWRENCE CAN SAFELY BE KEPT...



...KANDOR! SINCE I HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS IN THE BOTTLE-CITY, NEITHER WILL LAWRENCE!

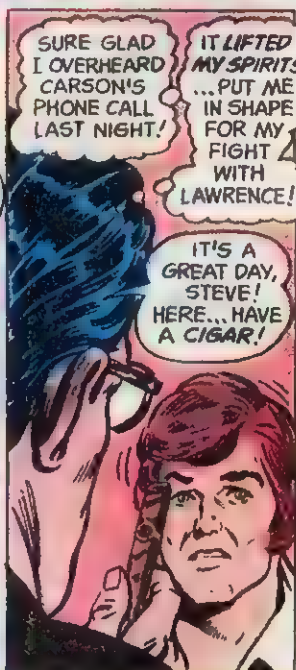
HE'LL STAY THERE UNTIL THE KRYPTONIAN SCIENTISTS INSIDE CAN FIND A WAY TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF SUNDER'S TREATMENT!



NEXT DAY, AT THE GALAXY BUILDING...

SO CARSON SAID LANDO OIL WOULD SPONSOR THE 6 O'CLOCK NEWS AS LONG AS YOU WERE ANCHOR-MAN, CLARKIE?

RIGHT, STEVE! SUPERMAN SPOKE HIGHLY OF WGBS... CARSON TUNED IN... AND, WELL, I GUESS HE LIKED MY STYLE!



SURE GLAD I OVERHEARD CARSON'S PHONE CALL LAST NIGHT!

IT LIFTED MY SPIRITS... PUT ME IN SHAPE FOR MY FIGHT WITH LAWRENCE!

IT'S A GREAT DAY, STEVE! HERE... HAVE A CIGAR!



WHAT ON EARTH HAS GOTTEN INTO STEVE?

GUESS HE'S GIVEN UP SMOKING!

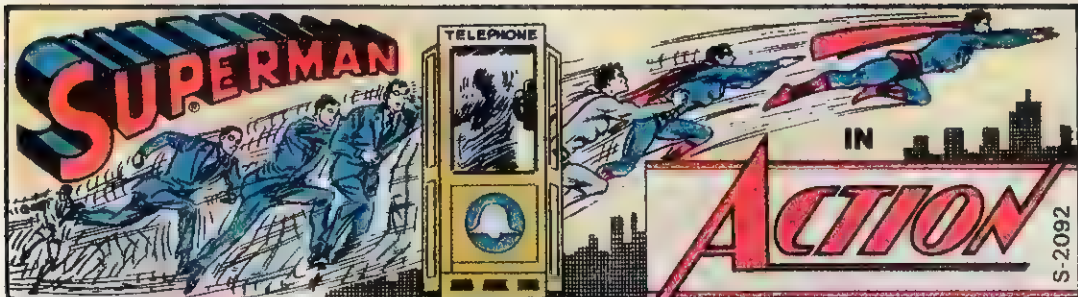
ABOUT LUNCH, LOIS... WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING ME ONE MORE CHANCE...?



OH, I GUESS SO! AFTER ALL, I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SUPERMAN!

COMING IN THE NOVEMBER ACTION... "SUPERMAN'S FANTASTIC FACE-SAVING FEAT!" ALSO-- ACTION-PLUS WITH **ATOM**

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN AUG.



c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

Action #448 struck me as one of the most complete issues in a long time. The cover was really powerful, with Superman cowering in fear. There was no signature, but I think Dick Giordano did it.

"Don't Get off on the 13th Floor" was a fantastic Maggin-Swan-Oksner-Schwartz collaboration. I thought at first Steve had turned into a monster. You guys used his personality to the fullest extent. I'm glad Roy Raymond is being used, since he has great possibilities. I see both Roy and Clark like to get back at Steve.

"Nightmare in Gold" was satisfying, especially Atom trying to control his gold arm. Marty Pasko has graduated to a first-rate writer and Dick Dillin can't go much higher as an artist! The look on Jean Loring's face when Ray hung up was worth the two bits I laid out.

This was such an enjoyable ish, I even liked the letter page! And that inside front cover ad with a Superman story thrilled me so much, I cut it out and pinned it up.

Mike White, Mackinaw, Ill.

(Your letter was terrific, except for one thing. The cover of #448 was done by Bob Oksner, not Giordano.—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Editor:

"Don't Get off on the 13th Floor" was an interesting and entertaining Superman adventure, but... having an unknown 13th floor is absolutely absurd in the Superman universe! If the name of this magazine was Shazam, not Action, then I wouldn't be bothered by this. (If there are talking tigers, why not unknown floors?) I am not asking for stark reality in Action, I just don't want Superman to become a Big Blue Cheese!

I'm glad I didn't see Clark changing to Superman in his typical pose this issue (pulling back his shirt to expose the "S" on his chest). I hate "Blue Cheese dressing". (OOPS!) Have Supes do his typical pose about once every four issues and "let-tuce leave" it at that.

Ken Wolf, Yorktown, N.Y.

(We'll try to come up with variations you readers will "relish". Think of what we "mayo" to you—like the "celery" we earn!—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Editor:

It's good to see Roy Raymond again helping out Superman in Action #448, after returning in Superman #285.

But I have a request to make. In Detective #244, Roy's descendant visited him from the future. He said Roy would marry and have three children. Also, he implied Roy's wife would be Karen, his girl friend at the time. So how about re-introducing her into Roy's life and making their relationship a little more serious?

Dave Wilcox, Arlington Heights, Ill.

(We'll see if we can talk Morgan Edge into giving Karen her old job as Roy's assistant.—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Editor:

I wish you guys on the Action staff would write a lousy story. I'm glad you've been doing so well, but I don't like saying too many good things.

If you wanted a lousy story, your first step would be to make sure Elliot S! Maggin wouldn't be at the helm. "Don't Get Off on the 13th Floor" wasn't your Shazam Award material, but it's enough to keep a good percentage of readers happy. It possessed all the elements of a good story: action aplenty, an alien monster, Superman in action (no pun intended) and the smooth artwork of Swan & Oksner.

The Atom story was a little better than the first part of the story, maybe because Dick Dillin bailed out the artwork. I'll give Pasko an A because the main plot was good.

Mr. Bridwell, this mag isn't good—it's terrific!

Andy Westholder, Rockford, Ill.

(Thanks for the praise from sometime-helmsman Elliot Maggin, Captain Julius Schwartz, the entire crew and First Mate—E. NELSON BRIDWELL.)

TO AND FRO... BACK AND FORTH... THE **EMERALD ARCHER** ROCKS THE CHAIR, STRAINING STEEL-CORDED MUSCLES FOR THE TINIEST GIVE! FOR, DEPENDING ON **GREEN ARROW** IS WHETHER **THIS** IS THE DAY...



"WHEN MADMEN RULE THE WORLD!"

ELLIOT S. MAGGIN: WRITER

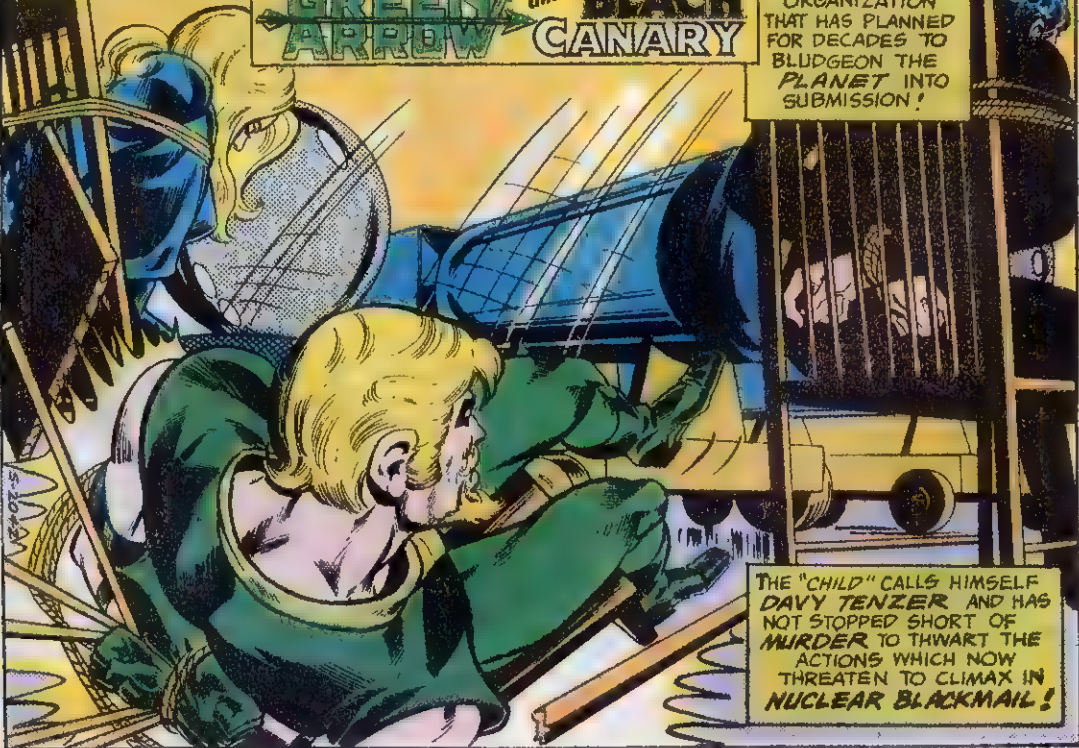
MIKE GRELL: ARTIST

JULIUS SCHWARTZ: EDITOR

A CHILD WHO CLAIMS
TO BE IMMORTAL
HAS LED...

GREEN ARROW and **BLACK CANARY**

...INTO THE DEN OF
A MYSTERIOUS,
SINISTER
ORGANIZATION
THAT HAS PLANNED
FOR DECADES TO
BLUDGEON THE
PLANET INTO
SUBMISSION!



THE "CHILD" CALLS HIMSELF
DAVY TENZER AND HAS
NOT STOPPED SHORT OF
MURDER TO THWART THE
ACTIONS WHICH NOW
THREATEN TO CLIMAX IN
NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL!

THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN **THURSTON KEANE** AND HIS **ORGANIZATION** WILL PUT WHATEVER IS THEIR **MAD PLAN** INTO EFFECT--

--BUT EVEN BEFORE I FREE **BLACK CANARY** AND **DAVY** AND SLAP THEM AWAKE...

...IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO KNOCK TOGETHER SOME MAKESHIFT TOOLS OF MY TRADE!

I DOUBT THEY'LL BE USEFUL AT ANYTHING OTHER THAN VERY CLOSE RANGE...



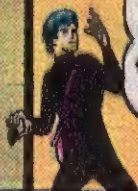
...BUT IN THE HANDS OF AN EXPERT, ANYTHING LONG AND NARROW CAN BE DEADLY!

AND PRESENTLY, IT IS A **TRIO** OF UNLIKELY COMRADES PADDING THROUGH AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE ROOM...



...WHERE AN ORGANIZATION MAD WITH AMBITION STORES THE MEANS FOR UNLEASHING A WORLD-WIDE NIGHTMARE...

SILENTLY THEY TREAD AMONG REPOSITORIES OF THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE AT MAN'S COMMAND-- AND A **CHILD** LEADS THEM...



HOW ARE YOU AT PICKING LOCKS SILENTLY, **GREEN ARROW**?



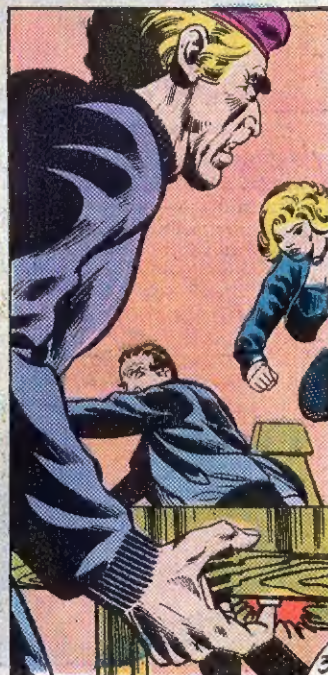
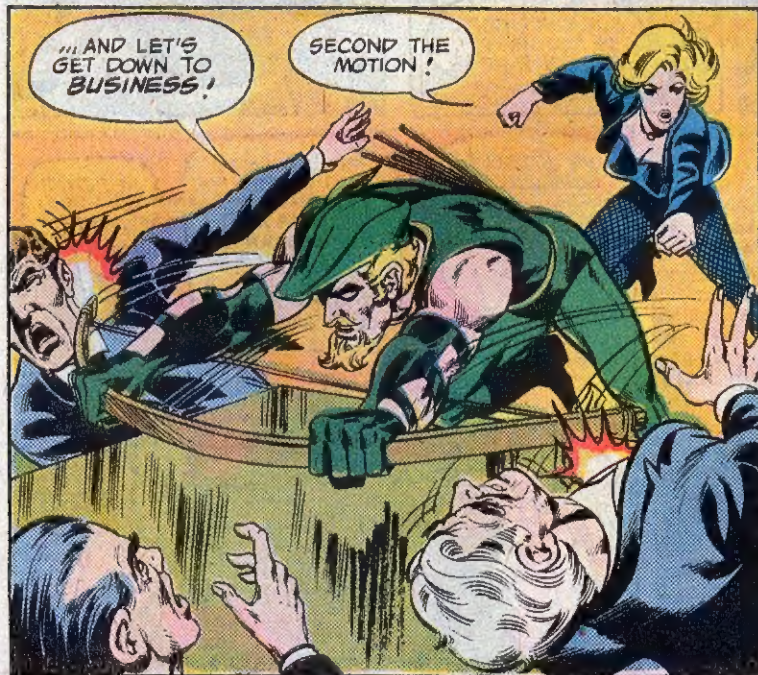
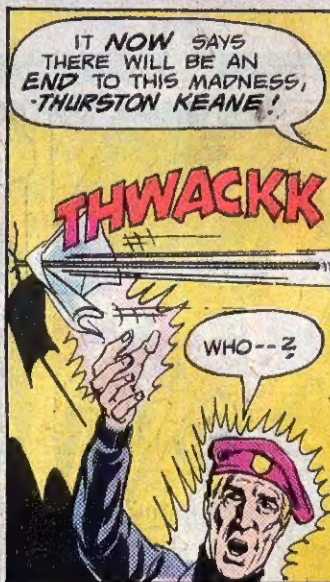
ASK THE **BIRD LADY** HERE... SHE'S THE **BREAKING-AND-ENTERING** EXPERT!

MY FIELD IS MORE ALONG THE LINES OF **ASSAULT AND BATTERY**!

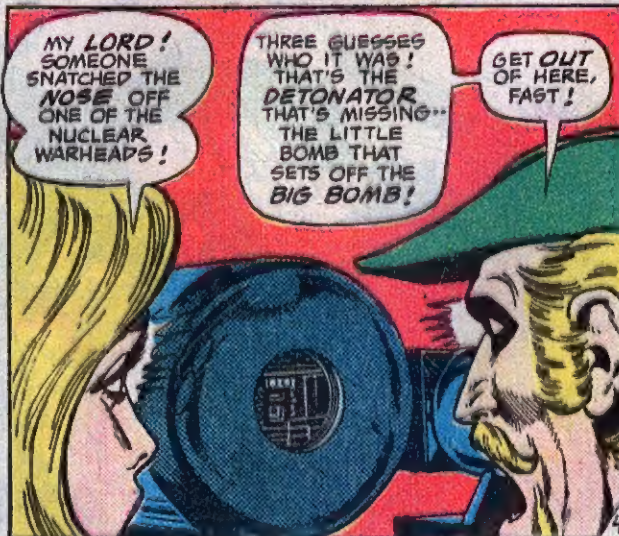
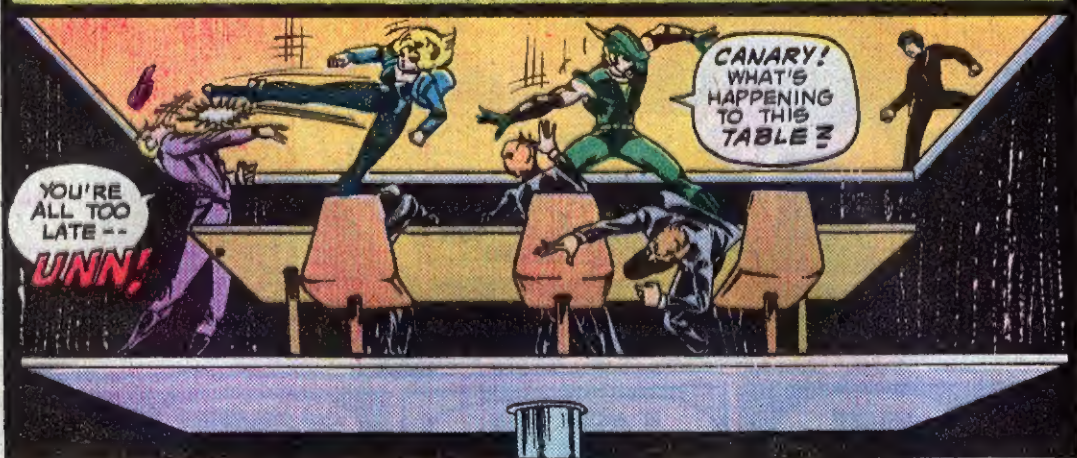
AT THAT
MOMENT,
IN A
BUNKER
A FEW FEET
BELOW...

WE ARE READY
TO GO INTO
OPERATION,
GENTLEMEN--

EACH DAY, BEGINNING TODAY,
WE WILL NAME A MAJOR WORLD
CITY TO THREATEN WITH
NUCLEAR ATTACK...



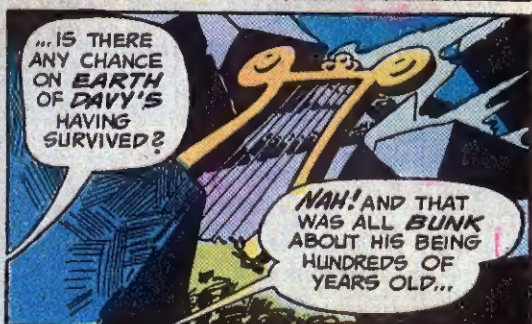
BUT AS GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY SLAM TOWARD THURSTON KEANE...





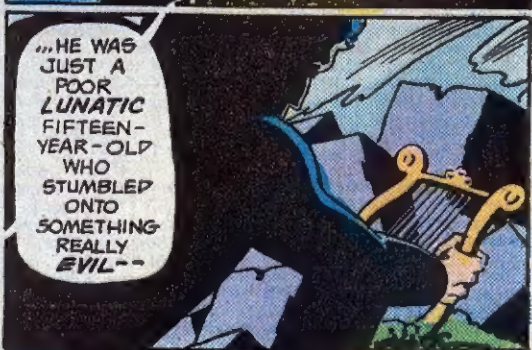
WE'LL HAVE TO
STICK AROUND,
PRETTY BIRD...
AT LEAST LONG
ENOUGH TO SEE
THAT ANYONE HURT
IN THE HOTEL IS
CARED FOR
PROPERLY!

I WONDER,
OLIVER...



...IS THERE
ANY CHANCE
ON EARTH
OF DAVY'S
HAVING
SURVIVED?

NAH! AND THAT
WAS ALL BUNK
ABOUT HIS BEING
HUNDREDS OF
YEARS OLD...



...HE WAS
JUST A
POOR
LUNATIC
FIFTEEN-
YEAR-OLD
WHO
STUMBLED
ONTO
SOMETHING
REALLY
EVIL--



-- AND
HAPPENED
TO HAVE
ENOUGH
HERO IN
HIM TO
STOP IT!

AND YOU THINK
THAT'S ALL THERE
IS TO IT, OLIVER?
WELL... MAYBE?

END?